

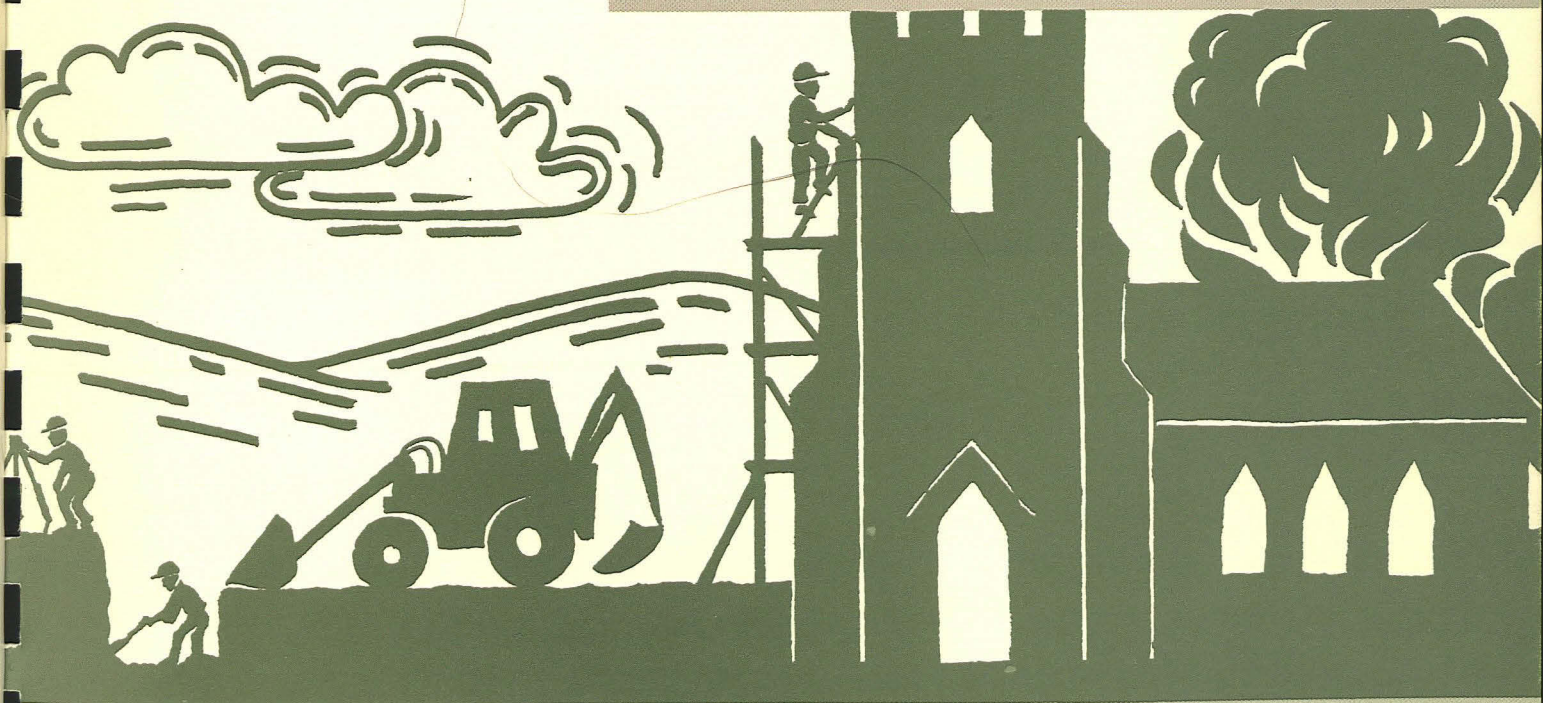
An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Car Dyke Farm, Blankney Fen,
Lincolnshire.

May 1994

CCM Acc No 28.94



ADVANCING LINCOLNSHIRE'S PAST



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
CAR DYKE FARM,
BLANKNEY FEN,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
Mr K. Braithwaite

Report Compiled By
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May 1994

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of agricultural buildings at Carr Dyke Farm, Blankney Fen, Lincolnshire. The site lies adjacent to the Car Dyke, a Romano-British waterway, possibly designed to aid drainage of the area.

Natural deposits infilling a possible ancient watercourse or man-made cut, were observed. However, no evidence for dateable archaeological activity was recorded during the course of the work.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

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Between the 25th and 27th May 1993, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of agricultural buildings at Carr Dyke Farm (NGR TF121614). The farm is located in the civil parish of Blankney, North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by Mr K Braithwaite and carried out by Heritage Lincolnshire.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Carr Dyke Farm is situated approximately 5.5km east of Metheringham, 7.5km northwest of Billingham and 11km northeast of Ruskington (Fig. 2). Local soils are the Beccles 1 association, dark greyish brown, slightly stony sandy clay loam or clay loam (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 120), overlaying Upper Jurassic Oxford clay.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Passing immediately east of the site is the Car Dyke Romano-British waterway. This

watercourse connected the River Witham near Lincoln with the River Nene east of Peterborough (Whitwell 1970, 57). A perforated stone hammerhead/axe has been found approximately 0.9km north of the farm (NK10.5). Located northwest of the site, immediately adjacent to the southern edge of Blankney Wood, are the remains of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing.

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to locate archaeological deposits and, if present, to record them in detail to enable their date, function and origin to be determined.

4. METHODS

Topsoil was first removed before foundation trenches were inserted to a depth of 1 metre. Features recognisable on the surface were recorded in plan and sections along the foundation trenches were drawn. A detailed written and photographic record was made of each deposit or feature encountered.

5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. Three phases were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

A yellow brown clay (8) (Fig.4 Section 1)

and a clay and sand mix (9) were interpreted as natural deposits and seem likely to be alluvial in origin.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Alternating layers of sand and clay (4, 5, 6 and 7) dipping to the north were encountered. The boundary between (7) and (8) may represent a watercourse that had been filled in by natural processes. Alternatively, the feature may be man-made, perhaps representing a ditch. If such is the case the boundary between (6) and (7) may indicate a later recut.

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Passing through the site on a north-south alignment is an electric cable, set in a service trench that had cut through the natural deposits described above (2).

The present ground surface was covered by a dark grey/brown silt topsoil (1) that was c.0.3m deep.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural layers of sands and clays, probably alluvial in origin, were observed within the area examined. Further sand and clay deposits, dipping as they are, represent natural processes infilling what may be an extinct watercourse or a man-made cut, aligned east-west.

The electric cable noted is a modern feature of the site.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigation at Carr Dyke Farm, Blankney Fen established that natural deposits consisting of sand and clay layers exist within 0.3m of the present

ground surface. A water course of unknown origin was observed and may represent natural alluvial processes or alternatively, infilling of a cut of man-made origins. Recent activity is indicated by the presence of an electric cable across the area of investigation. No artefacts were recovered during the course of the work.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heritage Lincolnshire wish to thank Mr K. Braithwaite for funding the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work, and Dave Start edited this report. Nicola Nuttall, the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist, permitted access to the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Supervisor: Dave Brown
Post-excavation analyst: Mark Dymond and Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R., and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Whitwell, J.B., 1970 *Roman Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire II

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed by 'NK' are the reference codes used by the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

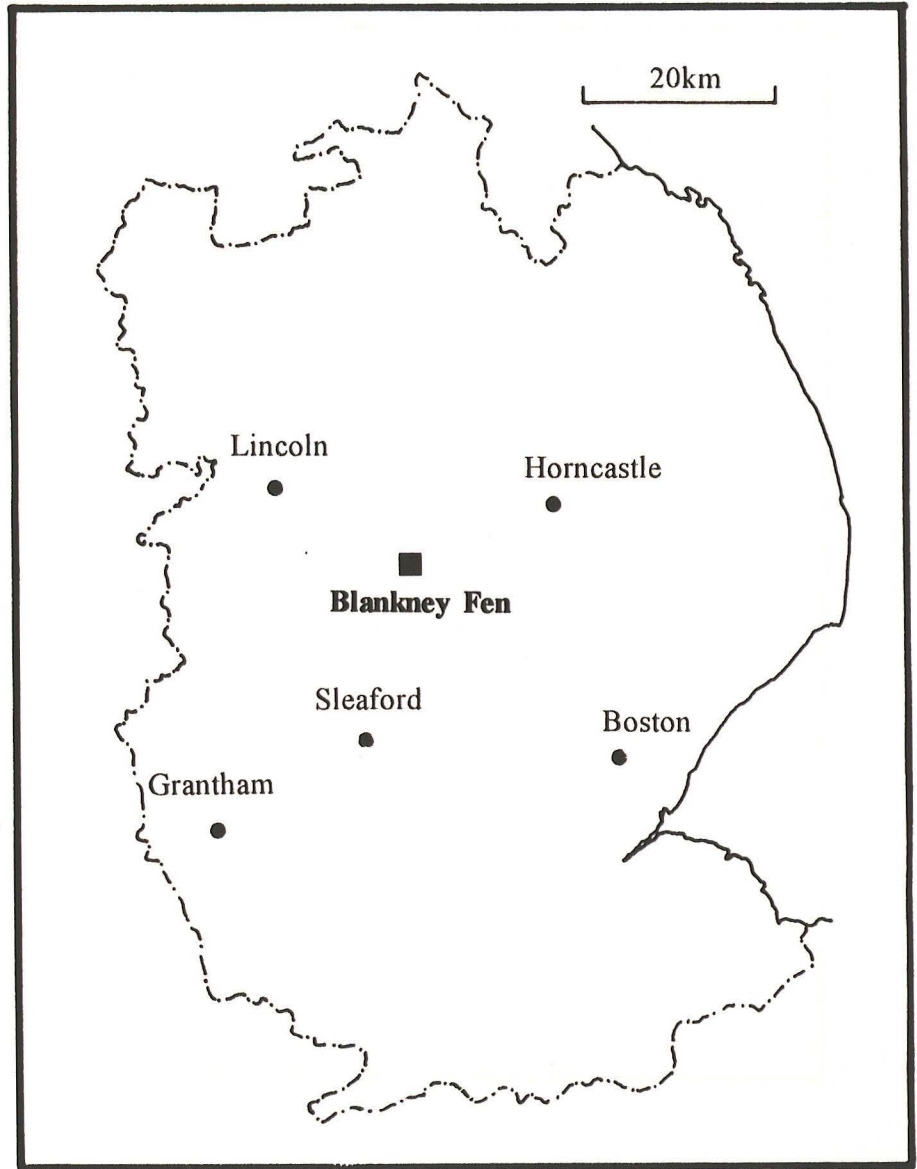
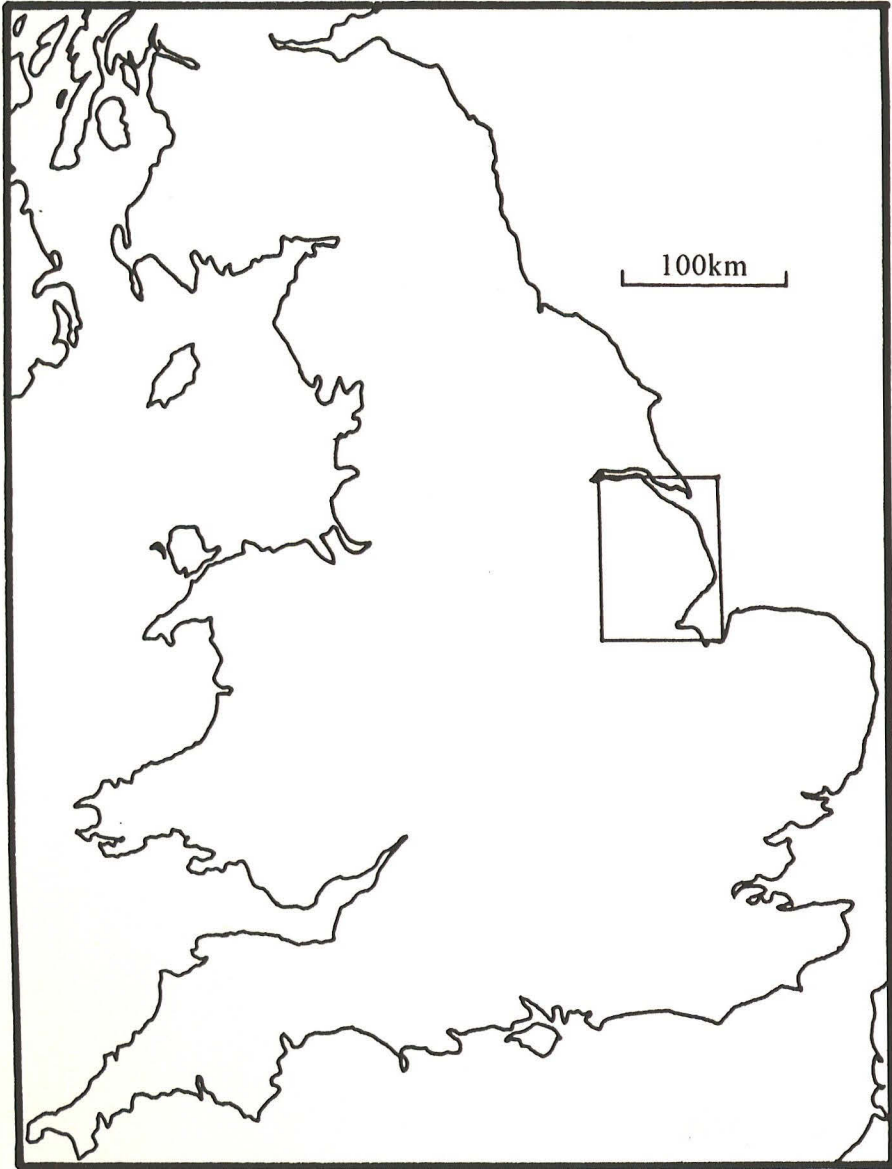


Fig. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

Fig 2. Site Location Plan

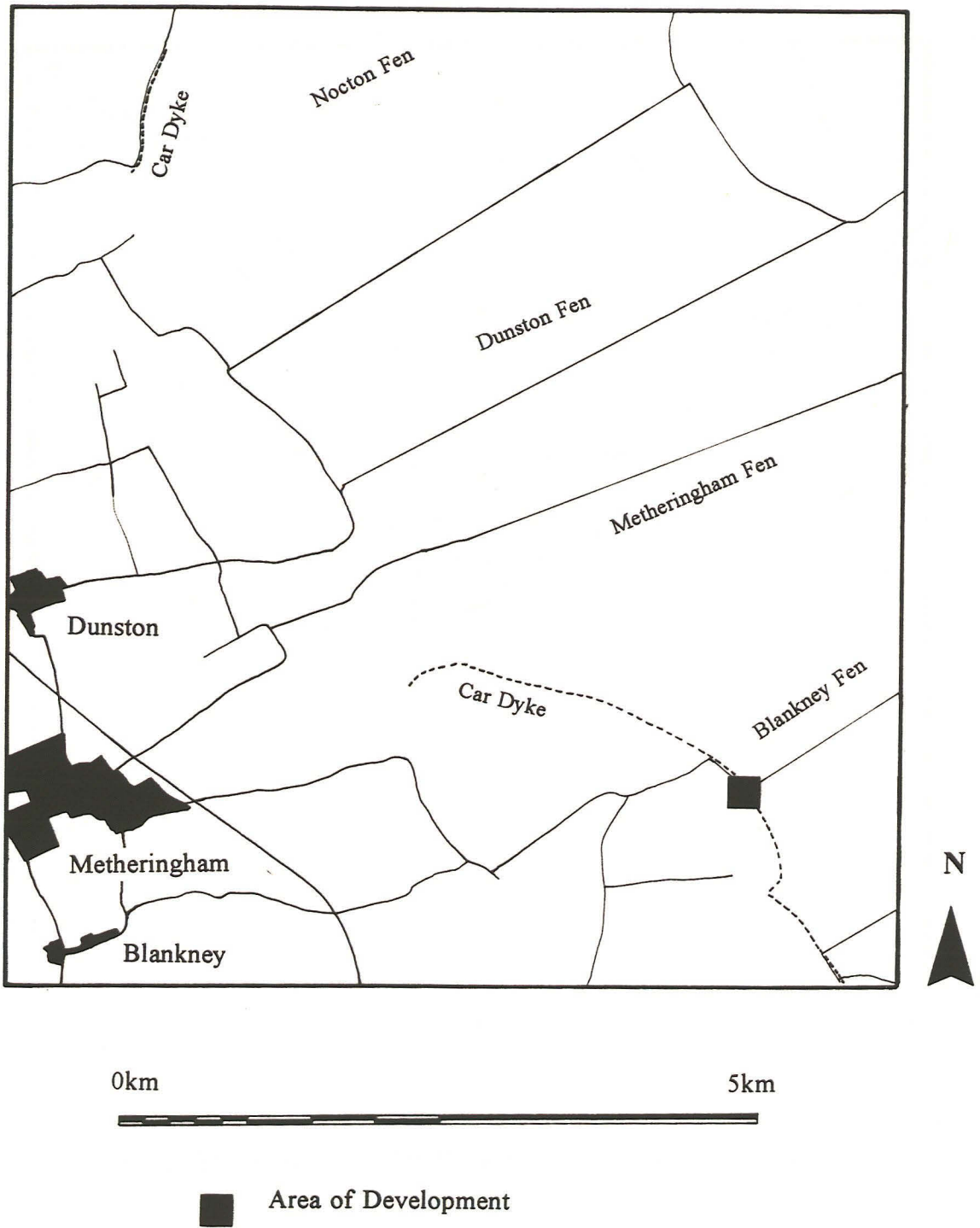
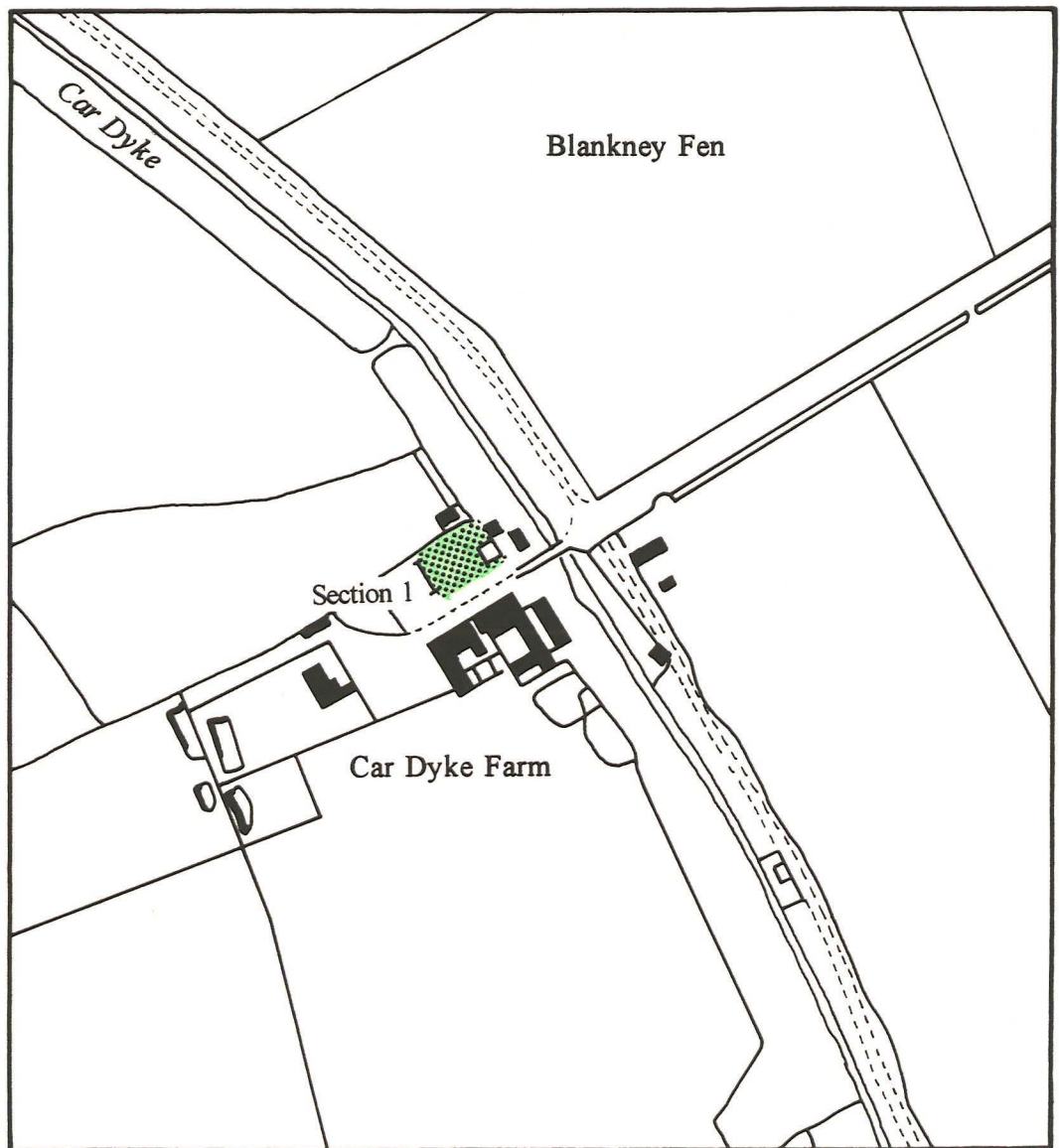


Fig 3. Development Area



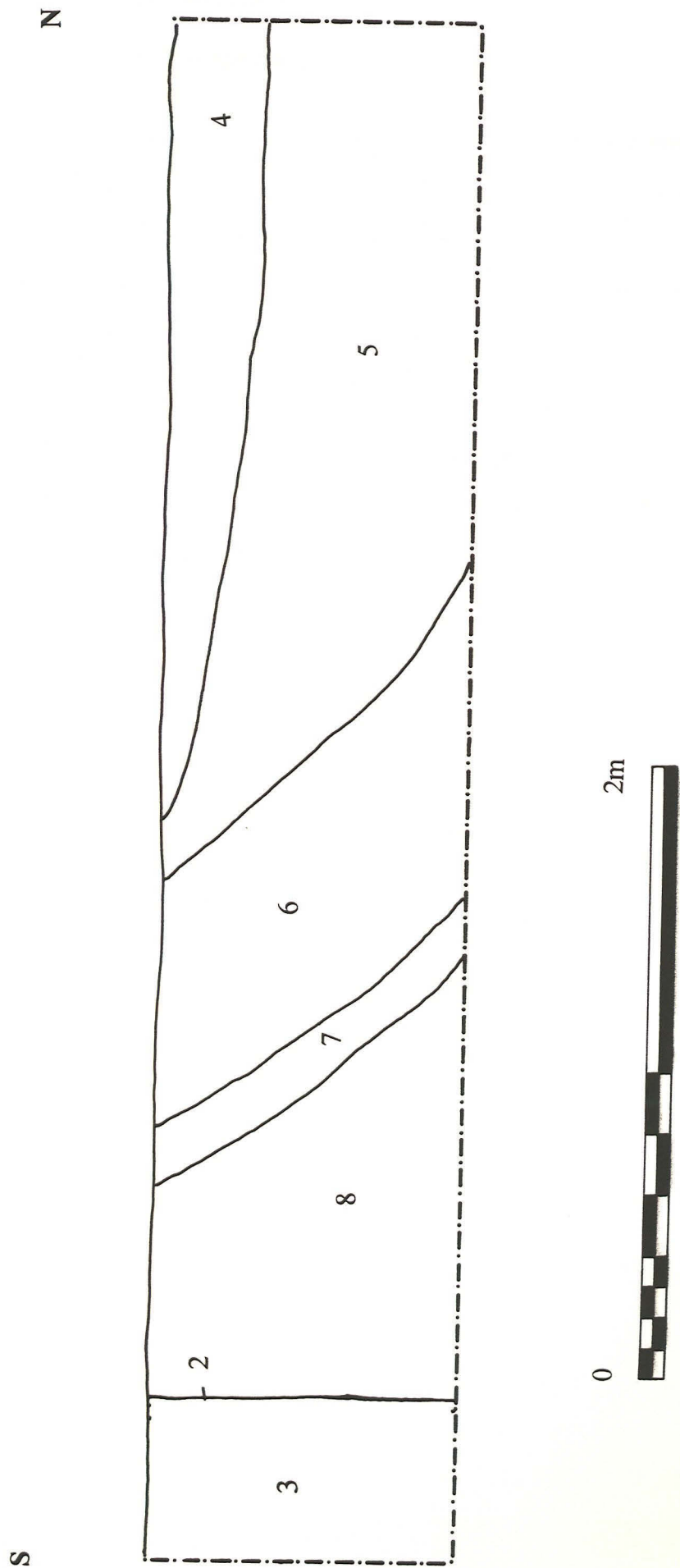
0 metres

500 metres



Area of Development

Fig 4. SECTION 1



APPENDIX 1

Context Summary

1	Silty clay, 30cm thick	Topsoil
2	Linear cut	Cut for electricity cable
3	Mixed deposit	Fill of cut 2
4	Grey brown clay deposit	Natural deposit
5	Sand	Natural deposit
6	Grey clay	Natural deposit
7	Sand	Natural deposit
8	Yellow brown clay	Natural deposit
9	Clay and sand mix	Natural deposit

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 9 Context records
- 1 Photographic record
- 2 Scale drawings
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession number: 28.94